

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

D.B., a minor child, by his next friend, M.M.;
H.C., a minor child by her mother and next
friend, T.S.; CHARLES WILEN, by his
guardian and next friend, JANICE WILEN, on
behalf of themselves and a class of persons
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SUSAN DREYFUS, in her official capacity as
Secretary of the Washington State Department
of Social and Health Services and J.
DOUGLAS PORTER, in his official capacity
as the Director of the Washington State Health
Care Authority,

Defendants.

No. 11-cv-2017 RBL

AMENDED ORDER

[Dkt. #106]

Plaintiffs have moved for reconsideration of the Court's order denying a preliminary injunction. (Pls.' Mot. for Reconsideration, Dkt. #106.) Under Local Rule 7(h):

Motions for reconsideration are disfavored. The court will ordinarily deny such motions in the absence of a showing of manifest error in the prior ruling or a showing of new facts or legal authority which could not have been brought to its attention earlier with reasonable diligence.

The Ninth Circuit has called reconsideration an "extraordinary remedy, to be used sparingly in the interests of finality and conservation of judicial resources." *Kona Enters., Inc. v. Estate of Bishop*, 229 F.3d 877, 890 (9th Cir. 2000) (quoting 12 James Wm. Moore et al., *Moore's Federal Practice* § 59.30[4] (3d ed. 2000)). "Indeed, a motion for reconsideration should not be

1 granted, absent highly unusual circumstances, unless the district court is presented with newly
2 discovered evidence, committed clear error, or if there is an intervening change in the controlling
3 law.” *Id.* (quoting *389 Orange Street Partners*, 179 F.3d 656, 665 (9th Cir. 1999)).

4 Here, Plaintiffs’ basis for the motion is a letter from Carol J.C. Peverly, Associate
5 Regional Administrator, Division of Medicaid and Children’s Health Operation, Centers for
6 Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”). (Pls.’ Mot. for Reconsideration at 2.) Ms. Peverly
7 simply reiterates the law: that a state may not limit “the medical assistance available to meet
8 children’s medically necessary needs under EPSDT.” (Decl. of Edward Dee, Ex. 1 at 2, Dkt.
9 #105.) The Court certainly agrees: the state must provide all medically necessary services to
10 EPSDT-eligible children. The letter does not alter the Court’s reasoning or the basis for its
11 conclusion.

12 First, in its previous order the Court found that Plaintiffs have not established a likelihood
13 of irreparable harm because they cannot identify any eligible child who is not receiving all
14 medically necessary care. (Order at 4, Dkt. #102.) This is unchanged.

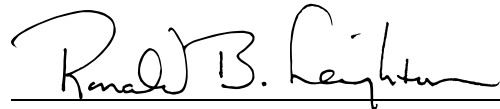
15 Second, Plaintiffs argue that Ms. Peverly’s letter faults the State’s interpretation of
16 “medically necessary” care, which is statutorily defined as all care necessary to “correct or
17 ameliorate defects and physical and mental illnesses” 42 U.S.C. § 1396d(r)(5). But, the
18 State’s definition is not at odds with the “correct or ameliorate” standard. Indeed, the State was
19 simply more specific in arguing that it must provide “assistance with activities of daily living and
20 instrumental activities of daily living; to maintain recipient health and safety; and to allow the
21 recipient to remain in their own home rather than a hospital or other institution.” (Order at 5.)
22 While those are different words, the Court is unconvinced the meaning is different. And again,
23 Plaintiffs have shown no evidence that the State, in reassessing base hours, is failing to provide
24 any child with all services necessary to correct or ameliorate their illness. Without such
25 evidence, Plaintiffs cannot show a likelihood of irreparable harm.

26 Lastly, Plaintiffs argue that the State has hard-capped hours and that the ETR process is
27 inadequate because it does not have some sort of interlocutory appeal process. As Ms. Peverly
28 noted, the “statutory standard necessitates a process that allows for adjustments in the numbers

1 of hours of services provided, including adjustments above a classification cap, based on an
2 individualized assessment of a child's needs." (Decl. of Edward Dee, Ex. 1 at 4.) At the
3 preliminary injunction hearing, the State presented ample evidence that the ETR process readily
4 allows individualized assessments and often vastly increases a child's hours from the base.
5 Moreover, any final determination is currently challengeable in court, and the State is currently
6 developing rules to provide an administrative appeal process. In short, Plaintiffs failed to
7 establish fault with the ETR process, and the Court does not view Ms. Peverly's letter at
8 contradicting its conclusion.

9 For the reasons stated above, the motion for reconsideration is **DENIED**.

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11 Dated this 21st day of May 2012.

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14 Ronald B. Leighton
15 United States District Judge
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